

## Obsolete Pesticides in EECCA countries

Mismanagement and accumulation of obsolete pesticides and POPs pose a threat to health and environment locally, regionally and globally.

It is very difficult to assess the real extent of the obsolete pesticides problem as only a limited number of field investigations have been carried out. However, it is estimated that **over 500 000 tonnes of OPs and POPs contaminate the environment worldwide.**

Obsolete pesticides (OPs) are found mainly in three forms:

1. Stocks in and around former storages (spread over tens of thousands of locations) varying from several kilos to tens or hundreds of tonnes;
2. Stocks at collection points in the former Soviet Union, the so-called polygons or burial sites. These are special landfills designed for the controlled storage of outdated pesticides and other hazardous waste. Polygons - in the sheer nature of the concept - comprise a limited number of very large sites, often in combination with other hazardous waste;
3. Waste originating from the production of pesticides; the main component is HCH (hexachlorocyclohexane) waste stemming from the production of Lindane. HCH waste is distributed on a limited number of sites with large amounts of waste up to sometimes more than hundred(s) thousands of tons.

Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention requires countries party to the Convention to take measures to eliminate or reduce the release of OPs and POPs into the environment.

The project **Capacity Building on Obsolete and POPs Pesticides in Eastern European Caucasus and Central Asian countries** will support 9 countries to implement such measures.

## Partners and contact information

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GEF



## Capacity Building on Obsolete and POPs Pesticides in Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asian (EECCA) countries



The project of  
FAO, IHPA, Green Cross,  
and Milieukontakt International  
supported by  
GEF, Green Cross and USAID

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In September 2009 GEF, FAO, Green Cross, IHPA and Milieukontakt International have started a new project.

The aim is to create a strong platform on the elimination of obsolete pesticides and POPs in 9 countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

The final result will bring a greater awareness of the danger of obsolete pesticides and an increased capacity to manage, dispose of and prevent obsolete pesticides and POPs stockpiles. In addition, the project will bring about information exchange and cooperation between 9 participating countries, as well as stimulate a systematic involvement of a wide range of stakeholders.

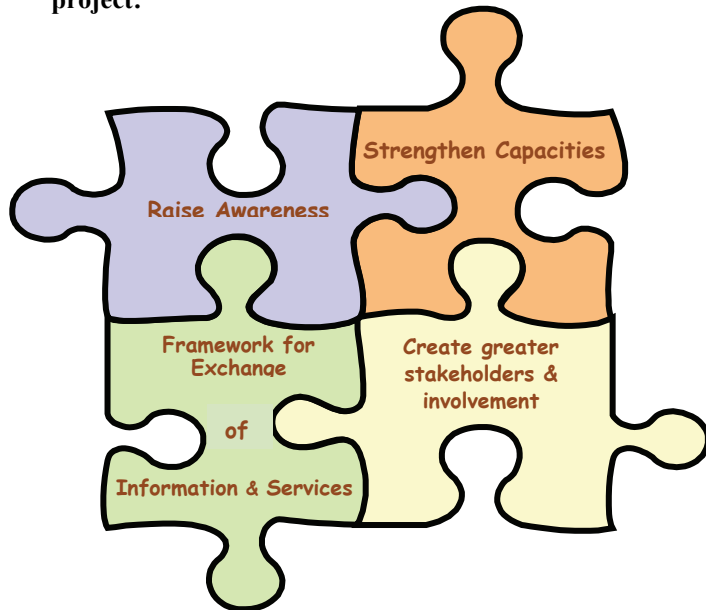
**Project period:**

September 2009- December 2011

**Participating Countries:**

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia and Romania.

The following activities are planned within this project:



**1. Raise Awareness**

- Participation at the 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Int. HCH and Pesticides Forum (2009 and 2011);
- Production & dissemination of project PR and education materials;
- Participation at relevant (international) meetings: presentations, exhibitions and brochure distribution.



**2. Strengthen capacity for obsolete pesticides and POPs prevention and disposal**

- Workshops & Training sessions related to obsolete pesticides management (such as inventory of OP stocks and repacking trainings);
- Technical & legal guidance materials
- Portfolio of destruction technologies and management options for the participating countries;
- Implementation of pilot projects on inventory, interim storage, risk assessment and repacking.

**3. Create a framework for exchange of information and experience on the prevention and disposal of obsolete pesticides**

- Commonly agreed information exchange mechanism among stakeholders participating in the project;
- Dissemination of project results;
- Other information tools: interactive website, CDs, videos, printed materials.



**4. Greater stakeholder involvement in prevention and elimination of POPs and obsolete pesticides**

- Regional capacity needs analysis study;
- Stakeholder partnerships between governments, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs.



**The field work will include:**

- Safeguarding of at least one high risk obsolete pesticides / POPs stock;
- Securing storages in 3 countries;
- Ready-to-start management plans in 3 to 5 countries;
- Training of 1 to 2 trainers per country on management of obsolete pesticides and POPs.

**For more information please contact**

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